

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time for boosting textile exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector.

(2) The current Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 is expected to provide stability with continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.

(4) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

(5) Exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.

(6) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments has been allowed.

Jute Packaging Order

2007. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have reduced the percentage of Jute packaging to be used by different Industries compulsorily as advised by the Supreme Court in its earlier Jute Packaging Order;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have made any study of the impact this will have on Jute manufacturing States like West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) and (b) Under the powers vested in the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, the Central Government, after considering the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee specified the percentage for mandatory Packaging in Jute Material for Foodgrains, Sugar and Urea as 100%, 100% and 20% respectively during the Jute Year. w.e.f. 1.7. 1999 to 30.6.2000. However, the Jute Industry in West Bengal had gone on indefinite strike w.e.f. 22.3.2000 leading to serious shortage of B. Twill Bags. Therefore, the Central Government exercising its power under the said Act gave a relaxation in compulsory packaging upto 10%, 10% and 5% for foodgrain, Sugar and fertilizer respectively vide its notification dated 31.3.2000. The validity of the said Order which was earlier extended for one month has been further extended upto 30.9.2000. Government has not issued fresh orders.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The Government has not made any such study since the order mentioned in para above is an interim order.

Export of Kosa and Silk Clothes

†2008 SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Kosa and Silk clothes exported during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount spent during this period for increasing their production in Madhya Pradesh with the Japanese assistance; and

(c) the details of action taken and achievements made by spending this amount?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.